



SYLLABUS

Caribbean Histories and Cultures

Instructor: Dr. Yanique Hume

Language of Instruction: English

UO Credits: 4

Course Number: 488

Contact Hours*: 40

Total Hours of Student Engagement (THSE) in all course activities*: 120

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Barbados

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This short two-week immersive course moves beyond the sun, beach and sand modalities of experiencing the Caribbean and instead helps students develop an interdisciplinary understanding of the culture, history and socio-political factors that have given rise to this dynamic region. Special attention is given to moving beyond a linguistically singular and myopic vision of the Caribbean, to one that emphasizes its complexities and contradictions through a comparative lens. While we will explore the various routes of cultural formation, we will also explore the social institutions that shaped the region and the processes of socialization and indigenization that took root. Students will gain keen insights into the importance of the Caribbean in the creation of the modern colonial world, and the forging of anti-colonial resistance to Empire. As such, attention will be given to the resistive/oppositional practices that countered the dominance of the plantation which later shaped the region's cultural diversity and varied articulations of freedom in the aftermath of slavery.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Student Learning Outcomes

Students in this course will:

- Learn about the history of the Caribbean and how that past has shaped the contemporary context;
- Learn about the role culture plays in the lives of Caribbean peoples

- Learn about the global economy and its impact on regions such as the Caribbean
- Understand the role anthropology has played in the region

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODOLOGY

The course comprises a mixture of field activities/excursions in Barbados, including visiting museums, historical sites and cultural activities, coupled with guest and instructor lectures. Classroom activities will include lecture and group discussions of readings and films.

Lectures will include slides that I will make available for review. In addition, there will be daily readings on Canvas.

METHOD OF EVALUATION (GRADING)

Activity	Points
Attendance and Participation	10
Think Pieces	20
Field Journal/Research Notes	30
Multimedia presentation	15
Final Project	25
100 Total points	

Participation

The overall success of the course in part depends on the participation of students enrolled. You are expected to keep up with the assigned readings each week, actively engage in lecture and discussion, participate in assigned daily activities, demonstrate a willingness to learn the material presented, have a positive attitude, and be flexible with changes that may occur in scheduling. Part of your grade will be a weekly check-in to go over your field journal and discuss your observations.

Think Pieces

These short reflexive writing samples (appx. one page double-space) provide an outlet for students to critically reflect on the assigned readings prior to the class discussion. These entries are to be uploaded via email by midnight the day prior. These one-page reflections can form the basis of your larger research project.

Field Journal

You are required to keep a daily log of your activities that include, but are not limited to, notes on guest lectures in the field, readings, and research notes. You will keep detailed observations, notes on readings, on your daily activities, and on observations that will contribute to your final digital media project. The Field Journal will be turned in as part of your final project grade.

Final Project – a final project is a digital media presentation of choice [podcast, series of vlogs, digital document, photo essay and will be due before the full program ends

(time TBD). The project will integrate your think pieces with your observations and any conversations/interviews you have had in the field. Each student will present their final media project of their choice and submit with their fieldnotes / journal.

Grading Policy

The correlation between points and letter grades is:

A+	98- 100	B+	88-89	C+	78-79	D+	68-69	F	59 and below
A	93-97	B	83-87	C	73-77	D	63-67		
A-	90-92	B-	80-82	C-	70-72	D-	60-62		

If the class is taken P/NP, a C- or higher is required to pass the course. To take the class P/NP, you must inform the instructor in writing (ideally via email) before the halfway point of the course.

Student Contact Hours = 40

Expected levels of performance:

A: students demonstrate a detailed knowledge of the course material, including major historical achievements in the field, survey and excavation methodologies, analytical procedures, and theoretical concepts; a demonstrated ability to integrate this material within an analytical framework.

B: students demonstrate substantive knowledge of the course material, including major historical achievements in the field, survey and excavation methodologies, analytical procedures, and theoretical concepts; an ability to integrate this material within an analytical framework.

C: students demonstrate reasonable knowledge of the course material, including major historical achievements in the field, survey and excavation methodologies, analytical procedures, and theoretical concepts; an adequate ability to integrate this material within an analytical framework.

D: students demonstrate basic knowledge of the course material, including a including a subset of major historical achievements in the field, survey and excavation methodologies, analytical procedures, and theoretical concepts; a basic ability to integrate this material within an analytical framework.

F: students demonstrate minimal knowledge of the course material; make little or no effort to integrate this material within an analytical framework; poor written communication skills; an inadequate ability to integrate this material within an analytical framework.

POLICY ISSUES

[Missed Assignments/Quizzes etc...](#)

There will be no makeup of missed quizzes or assignments except as defined by the official University policy on excused absences, which are anticipated or emergency. Anticipated absences must be cleared with the instructor before missing class.

[Cheating and Academic Dishonesty](#)

Cheating or plagiarism in any form will not be tolerated. The work you present must be your own. Individuals involved in an act of academic dishonesty will be forwarded to the Office of Student Conduct and if circumstances warrant, fail the course. If you have any questions about what constitutes academic integrity, please see the Code of Student Conduct at:

uodos.uoregon.edu/StudentConductandCommunityStandards/StudentConductCode/tabid/69/Default.aspx

[Incompletes](#)

In this course, an incomplete grade will be used in accordance with the official university grading policy, which can be found at

http://registrar.uoregon.edu/incomplete_policy

[Open Learning Environment](#)

The intention and structure of university level courses are to provide open, thoughtful forums for a wide variety of topics. While discussing these topics, students shall not discriminate on the basis of “The University of Oregon affirms and actively promotes the right of all individuals to equal opportunity in education and employment at this institution without regard to race, color, sex, national origin, age, religion, marital status, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or any other consideration not directly and substantively related to effective performance. This policy implements all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and executive orders” as outlined in the handbook on the Office of Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity.

<http://aaeo.uoregon.edu/AAEO%20Booklet%20Color.pdf>

[Accessible Education](#)

The University of Oregon is dedicated to the principles of equal opportunity in education and accepts diversity as an affirmation of individual identity within a welcoming community. Disability is recognized as an aspect of diversity integral to the university and to society. Please see the following link for more information:

<http://aec.uoregon.edu/>

University Career Center

The Career Center exists to provide career and job search services and resources to UO students and alumni. Our mission is to help you develop long-term career goals and strategies, facilitate self-exploration and discovery, connect with potential employers, and empower and challenge you to fulfill your potential. We look forward to serving as your advocate as you pursue an inspired and fulfilling future. The UO Career Center is a part of the Division of Student Affairs and has offices in Hendricks Hall on the UO campus and in the White Stag Block at the University of Oregon in Portland. Please see the following link for more information: <http://career.uoregon.edu/>

COURSE READINGS

A selection of articles are available in a google drive.

Additional Readings Available on Canvas

COURSE OUTLINE

These readings will provide an anchor and create the structure on which our lectures and discussions hang.

WEEK ONE

August 25 [MONDAY]

Defining the Caribbean –

Readings:

- Stuart Hall: “Myth of Caribbean Identity,” pp. 1-13
- Maximilian Fortes, “Introduction: The Dual Absences of Extinction and Marginality—What Difference Does an Indigenous Presence Make?,” pp. 1-17.
- Melanie Newton, “Returns to a Native Land: Indigeneity and Decolonization in the Anglophone Caribbean,” pp. 108-122.

Three-Hour Lecture & Discussion on the Caribbean – opening prompt – “What is the Caribbean That I know?”

Invitation to go to any supermarket or corner store and make note of the products that are local and those that are imported. Take photos and come prepared to discuss in next class

August 26 {TUESDAY}

The Plantation-Economy Model and the Persistence of Dependency

- George Beckford, "Plantation Society: Towards a General Theory of Caribbean Society", pp. 109-119
- Richard Price, "The Dark and Complete World of a Caribbean Store: A Note on the World System," pp. 215-220.

Afternoon Field Excursion to St. Nicholas Abbey – Farley Hill - Lunch in Speightstown – Visit to Arlington Museum – Hayman's Market

August 27 {WEDNESDAY}

- Linden Lewis, "The Contestation of Race in Barbadian Society and the Camouflage of Conservatism," pp. 144-195
- Hilary Beckles, "The Reparations Movement: Greatest Political Tide of the Twentieth Century," pp. 11-30.
- Janell Ross, "What is Owed, pp. 26-31.

FIELD EXCURSION: Visit to Codrington College and Four Square Rum Distillery and drive across countryside visit to Drax Hall

August 28

- Aaron Kamugisha, "The Coloniality of Citizenship in the Contemporary Anglophone Caribbean," pp. 20-37
- Mimi Sheller, "Iconic Islands: Nature, Landscape, and the Tropical Tourist Gaze," pp. 36-70

FIELD EXCURSION: Andromeda Garden Tour

August 29

Research and Reading Time Debriefing Session of Week's Readings Via Zoom

WEEK TWO

Sept. 1 [MONDAY]

Discussion of Caribbean Popular Culture

- Yanique Hume and Aaron Kamuguisha, "Introduction" to *Caribbean Popular Culture: Power, Politics and Performance*,

- Aaron Kamugisha, “Rihanna and Bajan Respectability” 159-188.

Film Screenings – TBD

Sept. 2 [TUESDAY]

Caribbean Art and Popular Culture – Guest Lecture with Therese Hadchity

FIELD EXCURSION:

- Visit to the Queen’s Park Gallery
- Walking Tour of Bridgetown
- Visit to Golden Square

Readings to be forwarded

Sept. 3 [WEDNESDAY]

Culture, Carnival, and Performance

- Marcia Burrowes “Losing our Masks: Traditional Masquerade and Changing Constructs of Barbadian Identity” Vol.8 2013 *International Journal of Intangible Heritage*.
- Marshall, EJZ (2016) Resistance through ‘Robber-Talk’: Storytelling Strategies and the Carnival trickster. *Caribbean Quarterly*, 62 (2). pp. 210-226
- Lindon Gill, “Peter Minshall’s Sacred Heart and the Erotic Art of Play”
- FILM SCREENING

Discussion with John Hunte on Playing Mas’ and the Presentation of Masculinities

Sept. 4 [THURSDAY]

Sacred Arts of the Caribbean

- “Introduction” of Olmos, Margarite Fernández and Paravisini-Gebert, Lizabeth. *Creole Religions of the Caribbean, Third Edition: An Introduction*, New York, USA: New York University Press, 2022.
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Sept. 5 [FRIDAY]

Final Presentations - Submit drafts for final projects online